

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BOGOTA 03788 261723Z
ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ARAE-00 SS-15 /026 W
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P 261621Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1198

C O N F I D E N T I A L BOGOTA 3788

FOR ASST. SECRETARY TODMAN FROM CHARGE

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP (TODMAN, PTERENCE A.) CO
SUBJECT: TODAMAN VISIT

REF: STATE 092289, BOGOTA 3750

1. WE RECOMMEND THAT IN YOUR DISCUSSIONS WITH FOREIGN MINISTER AND THE PRESIDENT YOU (A) REVIEW THE ADMINISTRATION'S OVERALL POLICY TOWARDS LATIN AMERICA, (B) BRIEF THEM ON DEVELOPMENTS IN OUR RELATIONS WITH CUBA AND (C) UPDATE THE BRIEFING AMBASSADORS BUNKER AND LINOWITZ PROVIDED EARLIER ON THE PANAMA CANAL TREATY NEGOTIATIONS. DISCUSSION OF THESE TOPICS WILL GIVE AN UP-BEAT, POSITIVE TONE TO YOUR FIRST MEETINGS WITH THESE LEADERS: I THINK YOU WILL FIND THEM INTERESTED AND COMPLIMENTED BY YOUR PRESENTATION AND QUITE RECEPTIVE. THIS WILL REDUCE RISK THAT ATMOSPHERE MIGHT BE HEAVILY CLOUDED BY THREE OTHER TOPICS THAT WE FEEL CAN NOT AND SHOULD NOT BE AVOIDED: NARCOTICS TRAFFICKING, THE STARR KIDNAPPING AND THE CASES OF THELAN AND OTHER AMERICAN WHO HAVE BEEN HELD IN PRISON FOR LONG PERIODS WITHOUT TRIAL.

2. REGARDING NARCOTICS, I RECOMMEND YOUR TAKING THE
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LINE I SUGGESTED IN BOGOTA 3560 (EXDIS), PARTICULARLY IN PARA SIX. WE HOPE THAT THE NEGOTIATIONS ON OUR AGREEMENT COVERING ASSISTANCE FOR A HELICOPTER AND AIR UNIT WILL BE RESOLVED BEFORE YOUR VISIT. IF NOT, WE WOULD ASK YOUR ASSISTANCE IN OVERCOMING REMAINING OBSTACLES IN THIS LONG, DRAWN-OUT BUT IMPORTANT NEGOTIATION. (GEORGE BROWN, THE ARA NARCOTICS ADVISER

CAN PROVIDE THE CABLES THAT HAVE BEEN EXCHANGED ON THIS SUBJECT.)

3. REGARDING THE STARR KIDNAPPING, I WOULD SUGGEST CONTACTING AMBASSADOR HECK FOR HIS RECOMMENDATIONS. AT MINIMUM, I THINK YOU SHOULD REITERATE THE IMPORTANCE OF THIS CASE AND THANK THE GOC FOR ITS ASSISTANCE.

4. REGARDING THE THELAN CASE, WHICH IS COVERED IN BOGOTA 3718, 3702, 2873, 2660 (AND IN EARLIER MESSAGES WHICH ARA/AND CAN PROVIDE), WE SUGGEST AN EXPRESSION OF APPRECIATION FOR THE ATTENTION THE FOREIGN MINISTER AND HIS STAFF HAVE GIVEN THIS MATTER TOGETHER WITH A REITERATION OF OUR (AND CONGRESSIONAL) CONCERN OVER THE PROBLEM OF LONG IMPROBATION WITHOUT TRIAL.

5. THE FOREIGN MINISTER AND/OR THE PRESIDENT MAY RAISE A NUMBER OF PROBLEMS IN THE ECONOMIC FIELD, CITING THE US SURPLUS IN BILATERAL TRADE WITH COLOMBIA, ARGUING FOR AN ENLARGED TEXTILE QUOTA AND AGAINST ITC ACTION ON CUT FLOWER EXPORTS (BOGOTA 2777), REITERATING FOREIGN MINISTER LIEVANO'S IDEA FOR US TRADE LIBERALIZATION FAVORING LATIN AMERICA IN PARTICULAR, AND ALSO WARNING AGAINST A COFFEE BOYCOTT. THEY MAY ALSO RAISE (THOUGHT IT SEEMS LESS LIKELY) THE PROBLEM OF FUEL ALLOCATION FOR AVIANCA (BOGOTA 3736) AND THE STALEMATE IN DARIEN GAP HIGHWAY CONSTRUCTION. IF A MEETING WITH THE MINISTER OF FINANCE IS SCHEDULED, WE WOULD RECOMMEND THAT YOU ELICIT THE VIEWS OF THIS KEY OFFICIAL

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ON COLOMBIA'S ECONOMIC SITUATION. HE MAY ALSO RAISE THE TRADE ISSUES CITED ABOVE PLUS MATTERS CONCERNING THE INTERNATIONAL MONETARY SITUATION.

6. WE DO NOT YET HAVE FIRM APPOINTMENTS FOR YOU WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTER AND THE PRESIDENT BUT BOTH HAVE CONFIRMED THAT THE DATES FOR YOUR VISIT ARE CONVENIENT.

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Message Attributes

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